Information Gathering Habits and Use Pattern among Faculty Members and Students in Selected Degree Colleges of Haveri District: A Study

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1.Introduction:

Information is the product of human brain in action.it is basic essence of human being, Indeed, Crawford (1978) has described information as the fifth need of human beings ranking after air, water, food and shelter. It may be abstract or concrete. It is considered as essential commodity, a resources or a product. When an individual begins to think, a variety of images and sensations flash across his mind. This makes some information to accumulate in his mind and his memory retains some pieces of knowledge. Information is indispensable for socio-economic development and it is essential for decision making, at the same time. information is an indispensable resource. To give correct, complete and precise information in time help the policy-maker in making the maximum use of the available resources. Similarly, a research and development programme can be accomplished successfully only if the required information becomes available as and when it is needed. Without proper and complete information no worthwhile decision can be taken. In fact,no development or progress is possible without the support of information. Since the progress of every type is linked with the availability of right information at right time, access to it, as also its dissemination

is of vital importance. To ensure unrestricted development, there need be a free flow of information. And as far as possible, there should be no barriers restricting this free flow.

1.1 Information: Concept

The term 'information' originated from 'formation' and 'forma'. Both these terms define the size and format of any entity, along with the indication towards the construction of a pattern.The dictionary meaning of the term is, "the knowledge communicated or received concerning a particular fact or circumstance". In other words information means "to inform or to tell or a thing told". Information may also be termed as knowledge, as knowledge is what we know or the portion of information which is in our knowledge.

1.2 Definitions

According to J.H.Shera: "Information, in the sense, it is used by the biologist and in the sense we librarians use it, it is fact'. It is the stimulus we receive through our senses. It may be an isolated fact or a whole cluster offacts but it is still a unit, it is a unit of thought’’.

According to the Webster's New World Dictionary of American Language (1984): "Information is news or intelligence communicated by words or in writing; facts or data; knowledge derived from reading or instruction gathered in any way

1.3 Features of Information

Though information is an economic resource, but it has number of characteristics, which are not shared by other economic resources. Some of these are:

l . Information is shareable. It can be given away and can be retained at the same time;

2. Information is expandable and it increases with use;
3. Information is compressible, able to be summarized, integrated, etc. •
4. Information is acquired at a definite measurable cost;
5. Information is possesses a definite value, depending upon its user which may be quantified and treated as an accountable asset;
6. Information may vary in value over time in an entirely predictable way;
7. Information has a 'consumption rate' which may be quantified
8. Information is amenable to the use of cost accounts techniques;
9. Information is a source of both economic and political power; and
10. Information is a commodity that cannot be exhausted.

1.4 Information Gathering Habits

Information gathering is behaviour of human activity. Since it is a behaviour, it is logical to propose that it stems from sources common to all behaviour. The information gathering habits is used here to include all activities comprising information seeking, information gathering, and information retrieving and communication activities performed in the library environment.

Information collection, transfer and use are all pervasive and universal activities in all walks of life. Information brings people and thoughts together. It

is the exchange of ideas, news and data that makes a society what it is. Information is a very important element for the progress and development of any country. Library is one of the key resource pools for the information. General libraries will have various types of information resources where as the academic libraries are more concentrated on the education. Information Gathering Habit is the behaviour with respected to searching various sources, channels including use of those information. The terms information gathering habits, information seeking behaviour, information searching behaviour and information using behaviour are synonymous terms. The study of information gathering habits can stand on its own as a area of applied research where the motive for investigations is pragmatically related to system design and development. According to Wilson information seeking behaviour results from the recognition of some needs perceived by the user that behaviour may take several forms the user may make demands upon formal systems that are customarily defined as information systems such as libraries on lines services. Further study is aims to determine the information use pattern among the library users under study, to find the frequency of library visit and the purpose of library visit, also to know the types of resources available and their access, extent of their awareness and use and satisfaction among the users of library

2. Statement of the Problem:

The study will be examined the information gathering habits and use pattern among the faculty and students of degree colleges in Haveri district. The study is focusing on information seeking behaviour, information searching behaviour and information using behaviour of users of degree college. Further, the study examined the influence of users' gender, age, type of college, and course of study on the pattern of information gathering and use by the students and faculty members. Hence the present study "**Information Gathering Habits and Use Pattern among Faculty Members and Students in Selected Degree Colleges of Haveri District: A Study**" is undertaken for the investigation.

3. Review of Literature

The review of literature is one of the important step in any research process, it is most important to be undertaken on given topic of research in the beginning of the study. It gives an overview what has been covered in the previous studies. What are the important works are published, what are the prevailing theories and hypotheses, what methods and methodologies are followed and adopted in the previous studies. A literature review is an evaluative report of information found in the literature related to selected area of study. The review should describe, summaries, evaluate and clarify this literature. A literature review is more than the search for information. It is a process of reading, analysing, evaluating, and summarizing scholarly materials about a specific topic.the present study, is pertaining to information seeking behaviour and gathering habits of users, and achieve this, various Information sources like primary, secondary and tertiary sources are consulted to gain knowledge on the research topic. The review of literature has been carried out based on the existing literature at National and

International perspectives and draw inferences. To collect the background literature, the researcher has consulted the following databases

- EBSCO's Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts (LISTA) online
- Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA)
- UGC Infonet full text journals at www.emeraldinsight.com.
- Shodh-Ganga and E- Shodh-Sindhu Resources, INFLIBNET Centre.

The researcher has made an efforts to identify the keywords and used its combinations as a search strings, later extracted some of the important studies on the topic covers both national and international perspectives as well. The researcher is also collected manually, by scanning, browsing and reading the original documents and consulting abstracting sources. Appropriate notes were taken and wherever the original documents were not available, the relevant information has been called out from the abstracts for the preparation of the review.

Degree college libraries have witnessed great changes in recent years in their collection and in their services. Significant development changes occurred in policies and practices (Mulla, K R and Chandrashekar). In another study by Kaur and Rajeev (2008) in their study on degree college in Punjab and Haryana all the respondents make frequent use of the Internet because they have access either at college or at home. Satpathy, Sunil Kumari (2010) examined the faculty members in degree colleges and highlighted the problems by the users especially in the usage of e-resources and suggested remedial measures for its improvement. Puttaswamy and Krishnamurthy (2014) in their study in degree colleges in Karnataka found that majority of teachers/scholars prefer to access e-resources

for getting the latest information for their lectures, research work and for professional development

Girija Kumar and Jayaswal in their study of nine research scholars enrolled for their Ph.D degree with the centre for the study of social system, Jawaharlal Nehru University, concluded that due to lack of knowledge about the use of different formal channels of information, researcher‘s reliance on library use was relatively low. Kapoor reported that researchers in geography hardly had adequate knowledge of the availability of secondary sources of information because of lack of training in the library use. Sethi and Sharma indicate that frequency of use of formal channels of information by historians depended on the ease of accessibility.

Sethi (1990) focused on the information seeking behavior of Indian Social Scientists and reported that social scientists seeked their information from a wide network of channels and from a wide variety of sources; their information search was governed by a number of factors; they devoted certain amount of time in visiting places and attending conferences; they mainly depended upon documents and their dependence on certain library services was considerable. Similarly, the contributions made by Sridhar; and Subramanyam; and Suri were noteworthy on this study. A number of citation studies in social sciences were made to measure the users’ information needs in India. Mention might be made of studies made by Rana in anthropology; Sahai, in Sociology; Kaula and Singh in Social Science;

and Hadagali in agricultural Economics. Some other authors shown interest in information seeking behavior like Karisidappa and Reddy, Sasikala, have made attempted to in the field of information seeking behavior.

S.A. FazlurRahman, and M. Tamizhelvan, in their study are found that the digital library infrastructure is to be improved along with digital resources, and improve the web OPAC facility overnight issue system, book bank system and photocopy facility have to be improved. Majority of the students are satisfied with the availability of number of newspapers, books and periodicals.

Jogender Singh examined that academics have welcomed the automation of library. It may also be motivated by a variety of needs, including personal, professional, entertainments etc. It is recommended that library staff focus on assisting users to develop a better image for the library.

R. Lakshmi Sankari, K. Chinnasamy and A.M. Venkatachalam pointed out that users are satisfied with library collections and services, but who want training in the use of online information. Although document delivery service is being provided on demand, the researchers pointed out that it would be worthwhile if the library could provide them with indexing, abstracting and interlibrary loan service as well user education about library using must and should be carried out as a seminar or workshop training.

Rajeev Kumar Gabaand Krishan Gopal revealed that Internet is the most important method of getting information. Periodicals are the first preference of

the engineers' for getting their information and govt. documents is the last preference source of information. Above description shows that library staff is very cooperative and helpful.

Tadasad PG and Matesheela revealed that books, newspaper, popular magazines class notes of senior are the most useful sources of information and conducted that the personal attributes, viz gender, year of study medium of institute, area of habitation, stay at hostel marital, status and frequency of visits of the university library have no bearing on the use of the specific sources of information.

Manjula C (2017) has felt that Information is very basis of human existence. It is the important element for the progress of higher education. The main purpose of this study was to find out the Information gathering habits of students from different disciplines of Velammal Engineering College in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. A structured questionnaire was used to collect the required data from nine undergraduate Engineering Branches. The researcher has studied various aspects of library use, including frequency of visiting the library, satisfaction with library hours, library collection and level of user satisfaction from library services, and cover the use of reference sources in the library. The study was carried out through survey by distributing questionnaires among 270 students and 91 percentage of students responded

Subhas Reddy B and Krishanmurthy D M (2016) have opined that User Studies are starting to be recognized as an important part of information processing activities. The Information providers such as library need to be aware of their user's information requirements as well as their information gathering habits so that they might provide better services. The study deals with the important features of few engineering colleges in Bangalore. Further study revealed that 60% users spent time in libraries to gather information. Finally, study highlights the main points and issues relating to the information gathering habits among the engineering college students.

Marcella, Baxter, Davies, etal. (2007) conducted a study under the title

"The information needs and information-seeking behaviour of the users of the European Parliamentary Documentation Centre: A customer knowledge study ". The purpose of this paper was to discuss the results of a customer knowledge study commissioned by the Parliamentary Documentation Centre (PDC) of the European Parliament in order to elicit a better understanding of the views and needs of its actual and potential client base. The study consisted of in-depth, face-to-face interviews with 72 clients and I l staff (83 individuals) in Brussels in February 2004. The paper explored the significance of information in the parliamentary context and summarises the activities which respondents described as being information-dependent. The information-seeking behaviour and skills of the PDC clients were discussed, as were the criteria by which they assess information quality. The study revealed that users were frequently uncritical and pragmatic in use of the most readily available information, sacrificing quality in favour of ease of access.

4. Need for the study

Today information technology has developed rapidly and has had a great impact on access to information and on information gathering habits. The librarian and library staff have to know and examine the criteria of information gathering and information utility by users for providing information services. More and more users deliberately and consciously gather information and it has become an integral part of human activity especially in the area of education, research and development. The users of information are finding difficulty in identifying and physically locating the relevant information at the time when it is required. In this context, the libraries, being the reservoirs of knowledge and the centres' of learning, have a greater responsibility in providing the right information to the right user at the right time, in the right form so that user studies are one of the interdisciplinary areas of research in library and information science.

In this context lot of studies have been conducted at developed countries mainly highlighted the information gathering habits and use pattern in conventional method for different set of target groups. The following can be observed from the review of literature.

1. There is a need for conducting extensive explorative studies in wider geographical proximity in different settings
2. No specific studies exclusively on information gathering habits and use pattern in degree colleges.

3. There are only few studies on the critical evaluation of information gathering habits,use patternand information search behaviour inconventional as well as digital environment on degree college library users.

Hence, it is proposed to examine the information needs and gathering habits of users of degree college libraries of Haveri district. The study will also examine the information gathering habits, use pattern and searching behaviour of degree college users under study.

5.Profile of Haveri District:

Haveri district is located in the state of Karnataka and the district is identified as the district with thehigh potentialtourist ahub in the state of Karnataka. The district has a number of temples and it has eight talukas under its jurisdiction .Namely, Ranebennur, Havieri, Hirekerrur, Bydagi Hanagal Shiggavi, Savannur, and Rattihalli.

The city of Haveri is the political, cultural and administrative head quarters of the district and this city is popular for cotton markets oil mills and cattle markets and chilli market, as for as the educational scenario in this district is concerned.It has number of schools and colleges managed by Government, private institutions. it has also technical institutions and Government Medical colleges in this district. The first folk university of Karnataka is located in Haveridistrict. As of 2011 it had population of 1597668 of which 20.78% were urban residents.

5.1 Higher Education status in Haveri District

The district has good number of degree colleges, professional colleges, technical educational institutions, Medical College and Folk University. It has hub of higher learning institutions. The district has 13 government degree colleges, 20 unaided and aided colleges including 05 women degree colleges which amounts to total of 33 colleges in district. List of degree colleges in Haveri district has given below.

Government Degree Colleges

1. Government First Grade College, Ranebennur
2. Government First Grade College, Sunakallabidari
3. Government First Grade College, Byadagi
4. Government First Grade College, Hanagal
5. Government First Grade College, Hirkerur
6. Government First Grade College, Shiggavi
7. Government First Grade College, Savannur.
8. Government First Grade College, Haveri.
9. Government First Grade College for women's, Haveri.
10. Government First Grade College, Chikkabasur
11. Government First Grade College, Akki-Alur
12. Government Degree College, Bankapur
13. Government First Grade Degree College, Tiluvalli

Aided and Unaided Degree Colleges

14. Shri. Raja Rajeshwari Arts and Commerce Degree College for Women, Ranebennur.
15. SJMV Arts and Commerce Degree College for Women's , Ranebennur.
16. BAJSS Arts and Commerce Degree College for Women's, Ranebennur.
17. Ranebennur Taluka Education Society Degree College Ranebennur.
18. AAIS'S Gousiya Arts/Commerce College Ranebennur.

19. KLEs K.F Patil Inst of BBA College Ranebennur
20. Bellary Rudrappa Trust Commerce College, Motebennur
21. BESM arts and Commerce College Byadagi.
22. MPVS Mahantaswamy Arts, Science and Commerce College Hanunsbhavi
23. Kumareshwara Arts and Commerce College, Hanagal.
24. B.R Tambakada Arts and Commerce First Grade College Hirekerur.
25. Shri R.J.V Arts and Commerce College, Shiggavi.
26. Gudleppa Hallikeri Arts and Science College, Haveri.
27. SSVH Shri SS College for Women's, Haveri.
28. SC/ST Residetial Govt First Grade College, Haveri.
29. HTRSS Priyadarshani Arts and Commerce College, Rattihalli.
30. Sarvajjanya Vidyapeetham Smt. Siddamma Basanagouda Patil Arts and Commerce College, Masur.
31. HTES Arts and Commerce College +HTESs BBA College, Akki-Alur
32. SVE'S Keerti Arts /Commerce College Savannur
33. BAJSS Arts and Commerce Degree College Ranebennur.

6. Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are

1. To identify the information needs of users of degree college libraries.
2. To find out the frequency of library visit and purpose of library visit
3. To investigate the type of channel used for gathering information
4. To identify the various information sources available in their college libraries
5. To find out the level of awareness, extent of use and level of satisfaction about their library collection among the user community of degree colleges under study.
6. To find out the level of satisfaction about different types of services provided by their respective libraries.

7. To find out the extent of correlation exist among different types of colleges users (Government, Aided and Unaided colleges) with respect to information gathering habits, use pattern and search skills.
8. To study the searching techniques used for getting required information
9. To ascertain users' opinion regarding the usefulness and adequacy of resources.
10. To offer Suggestions if any for the improvement of Library and Information sources and Services in the selected degree colleges under study.
11. To trace the problems, encounter while accessing the e-resources by the respondents.

7.Methodology:

In order to know the information gathering habits, use pattern and searching skills of information by users of degree college libraries , the survey method of research shall be followed, since it is most suitable and appropriate for the present study.For the collection of required relevant primary data, structured questionnaire shall be designed by keeping in view the objectives, hypotheses and available literature on the topic of the study. The questionnaire will consist basically three parts, the first part of the questionnaire pertaining to their background information, general information about the library, second part basically covers information gathering habits, use pattern and searching skills of information and third part covers about the different types of services offered by the college under study

Further appropriate sampling technique shall be adopted for selection of the sample population. In this technique, target population is stratified into a number of non-overlapping subpopulation or strata and sample items will be selected from each stratum based on simple Random technique. In this study, the population is stratified into gender wise, type of colleges. The primary required data will be collected through structure questionnaire from the undergraduate, and faculty members of selected degree colleges of Haveri district. There are 33 degree colleges in Haveri district for the academic year 2021-22, which includes, Government, aided and unaided colleges, the researcher will select some colleges of all three category of colleges, Later the collected data will be analysed with the help of statistical tools like percentage, average mean, SD, to draw the meaningful conclusions and further substantiate through appropriate statistical tests and also testing the formulated hypotheses of the study.

7.1 Study population:

The study population includes the undergraduate, postgraduate and faculty members of the selected degree colleges Haveri district, Karnataka.

7.2 Hypotheses:

1. There is no any significant difference among gender, place of the college, type of college, level of study and age of the users regarding the extent of use of information sources.
2. There is no significant coefficient correlation among the different types of users regarding the use of major academic information resources

3. Students' gender, course of study, and level of study have any influence on

Their information gathering habits, information seeking behaviour and searching skills of information

8. Statistical treatments:

Following statistical tests shall be used to statistically verifying the data, analyze the results and alsofor testing the formulated hypotheses**.**

1. The chi-square test of independence is used to test whether or not to attributes are associated. It is given by the formula.

$$\mathbf{X^2} = \sum \frac{(fo-fe)^2}{fe}$$

2. The Kendal coefficient concordance test is used to test the extent of correlation exists among different independent groups. It is given by the formula.

$$W = \frac{S}{\frac{1}{12}K^2(N^3-N)}$$

3. The independent sample t-test is used to find out statistical significant difference between mean scores of two groups.

4. The one way ANOVA test is used to find out statistical significant difference of the mean score among more than two groups.

5. Monova test is used to find out the statistical significance difference among the multivariables.
6. Regression analysis is used to find out influence of one variable (the independent or predictor variable) held on a second variable (the dependent or criterion variable).

9.Organization of the Study:

The present study shall be systematically organized into five chapters, which are as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduction:

The first chapter shall describe Introduction, Statement of the problem, and review of literature, need and purpose of the study, Objectives of the study, Scope and limitations and organization of the study.

Chapter 2: Research design and Methodology:

Gives the details of the research design and methodology followed for the study

Chapter 3: Higher Education in Karnataka and in Haveri District

Summarizes the history and development of higher education in Karnataka and Haveri district.

Chapter 4: Review of related literature:

This chapter will provide a brief review of related literature on information gathering habits, information seeking behaviour and searching skills in conventional and digital environment.

Chapter 5: Data Analysis and Interpretation:

In the fourth chapter attempt shall be made to analyze and interpretation of the data collected through questionnaires.

Chapter 6: Fact Findings, Suggestions and Conclusion:

The fifth chapter highlights the fact- findings of the study, on the basis of the fact-findings recommending most appropriate suggestions for the persisting problems and giving a conclusion of the study. Appendices

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